

Amendments to the Claims:

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough or double brackets, are expressed in the listing.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite wear layer comprising:
 - a) a polyethylene terephthalate wear layer,
 - b) an organic/inorganic top coat layer formed from a top coat formulation comprising (1) a coupling agent having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic polymerizable moiety and (2) a tetraalkylsiloxane, and
 - c) an adhesion promoter between the wear layer and the top coat layer.

2. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the wear layer is between about 1 mil and about 20 mils.

3. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the top coat layer is between about 2 microns and about 13 microns.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the top coat layer further comprises hard particles.

6. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 5, wherein the hard particles are nanoparticles.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

8. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the wear layer comprises a polyethylene terephthalate copolymer.

9. (Previously Presented) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat was formed from a top coat formulation comprising a colloidal inorganic sol.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the organic polymerizable moiety is selected from the group consisting of (meth)acrylate, epoxy, isocyanate, vinyl ether, allyl, vinyl, and acetylenic.

13. (Previously Presented) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the inorganic polymerizable moiety is selected from the group consisting of hydrolyzable Al, Zr, Si, Ti or B alkoxides and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat composition was formed from a top coat formulation further comprising (3) an organic polymerizable monomer or oligomer.

Claims 15 and 16 (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The composite wear layer of claim 14, wherein the coupling agent comprises a reactive organic moiety that reacts with the organic polymerizable monomer, but is not capable of self polymerization.

18. (Previously Presented) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the organic/inorganic top coat has been cured by heat, UV radiation, electron beam radiation or combinations thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) A surface covering comprising the composite wear layer of claim 1 and a substrate.

20. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 19, wherein the surface covering is a floor covering.

21. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 20, wherein the floor covering is a resilient tile.

22. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 20, wherein the floor covering is a resilient sheet product.

23. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 22, wherein the resilient sheet product comprises a foam or foamable layer.

Claims 24 and 25 (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The surface covering of claim 20, wherein the ~~surface covering further comprises~~ substrate is a flooring substrate and the flooring substrate further comprises a second adhesion promoter between the wear layer and the flooring substrate.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 26, wherein the adhesion promoter between the wear layer and the top coat layer is different from the adhesion promoter between the wear layer and the flooring substrate.

29. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the glass transition temperature of the organic/inorganic top coat layer is above 25°C.

30. (Original) The composite wear layer of claim 1, wherein the Mohs hardness of the top coat is greater than 1.5.

31. (Original) The floor covering of claim 20, wherein the final product exhibits gloss retention properties of greater than 90%.

32. (Original) The floor covering of claim 20, wherein the final product exhibits a light stability color change of less than 3 Delta b units.

33. (Currently Amended) A process of manufacturing a floor covering, comprising:

- a) laminating a PET film to a flooring substrate,
- b) applying an adhesion promoter to the PET film before or after the PET film is laminated to the flooring substrate whereby the PET film is interposed between the adhesion promoter and the flooring substrate with the adhesion promoter being exposed when the PET film is laminated to the flooring substrate and the adhesion promoter is applied to the PET film,
- c) applying an organic/inorganic top coat formulation comprising (1) a coupling agent having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic polymerizable moiety and (2) a tetraalkylsiloxane to the exposed adhesion promoter, and
- d) then curing the top coat formulation.

34. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 33, wherein the adhesion promoter is applied to the PET film before the PET film is laminated to the flooring substrate.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

36. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 33, wherein a second adhesion promoter is applied to at least one of the PET film and the flooring substrate before the PET film is laminated to a flooring substrate.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 36, wherein the adhesion promoter on one side of the PET film is different from the adhesion promoter on the other side of the PET film.

39. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 33, wherein the PET film comprises a copolymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

40. (Currently Amended) A process of manufacturing a floor covering, comprising:

a) applying an organic/inorganic top coat formulation comprising (1) a coupling agent having an organic polymerizable moiety and an inorganic polymerizable moiety and (2) a tetraalkylsiloxane, to a PET film to form a composite wear layer, and

b) laminating the composite wear layer to a flooring substrate such that the PET film is overlying the flooring substrate and the organic/inorganic top coat is exposed when the flooring covering is installed.

41. (Original) The process of claim 40, wherein the PET film further comprises an adhesion promoter.

42. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the top coat formulation is applied to the adhesion promoter.

43. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 41, wherein the adhesion promoter is between the PET film and the flooring substrate when the composite film is laminated to the flooring substrate.

44. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 42, wherein a second adhesion promoter is between the PET film and the flooring substrate when the composite film is laminated to the flooring substrate.

45. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 44, wherein the adhesion promoter comprising the PET film is different from the second adhesion promoter.

46. (Original) The process of claim 40, wherein the PET film comprises a copolymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

47. (Previously Presented) The surface covering of claim 19, wherein the PET wear layer comprises a copolymer of polyethylene terephthalate.

Claims 48 to 56 (Canceled).